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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/673,839	09/29/2003	James Robert Harrison	15-912D1	2535

7590 08/02/2004

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EXAMINER

EVANS, ROBIN OCTAVIA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3742

DATE MAILED: 08/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/673,839

Applicant(s)

HARRISON ET AL.

Examiner

Robin O. Evans

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The preliminary amendment presented in communication filed September 29, 2003 is acknowledged.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The prior art in parent application no. 09/807,138 has been considered. Only references used by the examiner will be recited on the form PTOL 892. If applicant desires the information printed on the patent (is the application passes to issue), a listing of the considered references must be provided, see MPEP 609 I.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 12-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ovard (4,133,851).

Ovard shows a water spreader in an evaporative cooler inherently performing the method steps of feeding a water stream to a water spreader arrangement through water inlet 18, dividing the water inlet into a pair of partial streams by flowing the stream over a first substantially vertical projection 266 (see figure 6) and dividing each of the two partial streams into two further

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streams by flowing the stream over an associated pair of further projections 232 (see figure 7) at a second level below the first level. It should be noted that the water streams will inherently have a flow rate and since the predetermined flow rate is not further defined in the claimed it is deemed that the inherent flow rate of Ovard's water spreader meets the claimed limitation.

5. Claims 12-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ramm-Schmidt (6,068,730).

Ramm-Schmidt et al. show a water spreader in an evaporative cooler inherently performing the method steps of feeding a water stream to a water spreader arrangement through water inlet 3, dividing the water inlet into a pair of partial streams by flowing the stream over a first substantially vertical projection 20 (see figure 2) and dividing each of the two partial streams into two further streams by flowing the stream over an associated pair of further projections 14 at a second level below the first level. It should be noted that the water streams will inherently have a flow rate and since the predetermined flow rate is not further defined in the claimed it is deemed that the inherent flow rate of Ramm-Schmidt et al. water spreader meets the claimed limitation.

Conclusion


6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Obert and Phelps show devices in the general state of the art of the invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robin O. Evans whose telephone number is (703) 305-5766. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:30 am- 5:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Mar can be reached on (703) 308-2087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Robin O. Evans
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3742
8/1/04

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